

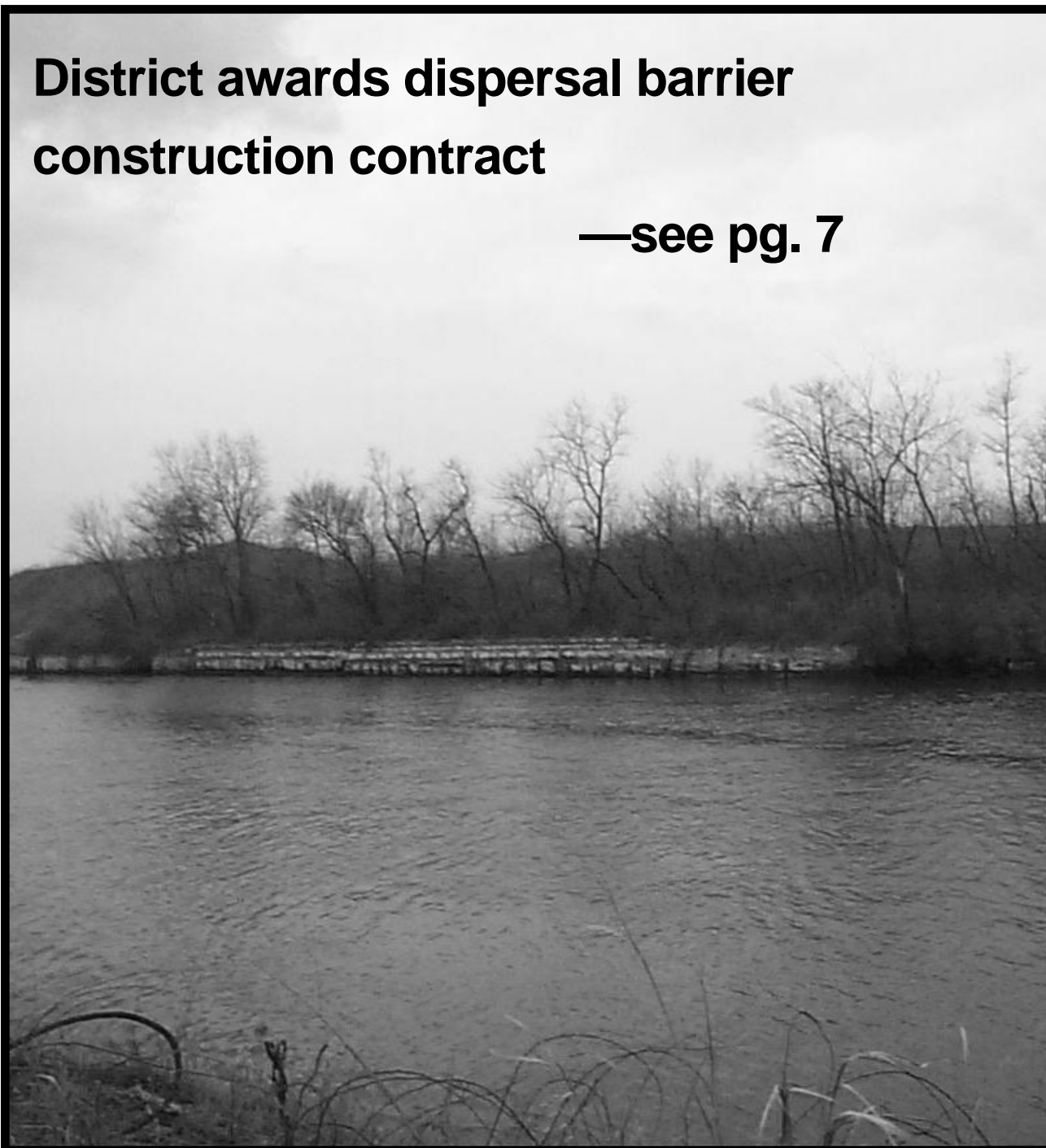
**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Chicago District

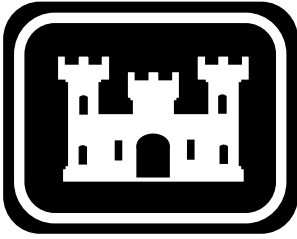
Chicago Breeze

March 2001

**District awards dispersal barrier
construction contract**

—see pg. 7





The **Chicago Breeze** is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-1.

Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

The Public Affairs Office welcomes comments and opinions on information published in the Chicago Breeze. Please call (312) 353-6400 (ext. 1302) or submit letters to the editor, **Chicago Breeze**, at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Chicago District
Editor, Public Affairs Office
111 N. Canal, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

e-mail address:
Vanessa.Villarreal@usace.army.mil

Circulation.....600
District Engineer.....Col. Mark A. Roncoli
Command Information.....Lynne Whelan
Editor.....Vanessa Villarreal

Front page: At river mile 296.25 on the Sanitary and Ship Canal.

From the District Engineer...



Col. Mark A. Roncoli

A little over a decade ago I spent two plus years in Korea serving in the Corps' Far East District. My first 21 months found me working at the Casey Project Office overseeing construction in support of the 2nd Infantry Division. Among my fondest memories in Korea are the relationships I established with the construction representatives from that office. We shared common bonds as we worked together to deliver quality projects to the Division. Safety on the construction site was a common concern for all. Safe construction in Korea was a definite challenge. Our safety standards were not the norm for construction in Korea. We always had to stay vigilant.

Safety vigilance is required in Chicago as well. With that in mind, the Con-Ops Division conducted its annual three-day Safety Conference in mid-February. I attended the second day's session. Over 20 people, most coming from our two area offices, attended. The primary instructors that day were our Safety Officer Pete Flanagan and Ron Barkley, Detroit District safety officer. Listening and participating in the discussions brought back many memories from those days in Korea. Besides the important dialogue, I enjoyed the humor and camaraderie shared by those from the field.

Offered the opportunity to make some initial remarks, I started by briefly discussing the district's FY 2001 Operations Plan and our Command Philosophy. I remarked that safety is inherent in "Fulfilling our Mission." Then I made mention of the major safety concerns I had in Korea. In Korea, we often talked of three types of accidents that had the most likelihood of resulting in deaths. Those were deaths related to falls, excavations and electrocution. Without knowing the day's agenda, I soon discovered that we were to spend the day discussing, among other things, those three issues.

Our first lesson focused on how to reduce the risks related to trenches. This will be an important activity of upcoming work on the Indiana Harbor CDF project. We discussed the use of shoring, sloping, barricades, understanding soil types, and other actions to mitigate risk. Later we focused on electrical matters chiefly because of work related to the Little Cal Pump stations. All of the day's presentations focused on ensuring we understood risks common to a construction job and how to mitigate them. Now, our job is to put what we learned into action. We must put in place controls that decrease risk to acceptable levels.

The Corps has a formal Risk Management Process. It consists of five steps. The steps are:

- Identify Hazards
- Assess Hazards
- Make Risk Decisions
- Implement Controls
- Supervise (watch for changes)

Furthermore, there are four principles of Risk Management. They are:

- Accept risk when benefits outweigh the cost.
- Accept no unnecessary risk.
- Anticipate and manage risk by planning.
- Make risk decisions at the right level.

We all should be using our risk management process and following these principles.

At one point in the day, Flanagan commented that the district's current number one safety issue relates to material handling. He said that most of our employees' recent accidents are attributable to such activities. Ironically, I observed such an accident that day. That morning at a break I went to the gift shop to make a purchase. The cashier returned to open the shop as I arrived. She had just gone to bandage a cut on her thumb. She had cut it on a case of coke as she tried to open it. Material handling! While she is not one of our employees, accidents related to material handling are common. Who has not ever had a paper cut or strained a back while lifting? Most often we did not pay attention or took a short cut.

Accidents can happen anywhere. We all must remain vigilant in order to reduce their frequency. Let's make this a priority!

Before entering a job site, be sure that you receive

an initial site safety briefing from the contractor's superintendent or from the Corps Quality Assurance representative. Make a leadership statement by obeying all site safety rules including the wearing of hard hats and other required Personal Protective Equipment.

At home, be sure to eliminate hazards that are the leading causes of injury and death - slips, trips, falls and fires. Keep stairways clear and if you must climb to reach something on a shelf, use a stepladder, not a chair. Avoid overloading electrical circuits and be sure to check all electrical cords in your house every six months for deterioration. Make sure you have a home emergency evacuation plan and remember to test those smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.

Here in the office, one way to demonstrate our safety focus is by doing some simple housekeeping. We need to clean up our cluttered spaces and walkways. Not only will it present a more professional appearance; it will reduce the risks associated with having too much stuff laying around. In a related matter, let's ensure that we properly secure our equipment. We need it and we need you to get the job done.

Keep up the great work!

Message from the chief

To all USACE employees:

A key part of ongoing efforts to improve how we do business is the revision of ER 5-1-11, formerly titled "Program and Project Management."

A diverse team of field practitioners has developed a draft revision to that regulation, retitled "USACE Business Process." That name change is significant—this regulation establishes the corporate doctrine for everything we do, and applies to everyone in USACE.

The draft regulation has been posted at www.hq.usace.army.mil/pmbp/er and is now available for review and comment on-line. I cannot overstate the importance of this document, and encourage you to review it and submit your feedback using the tools on the website. The review period will continue through 23 March 2001.

Essayons,

Bob Flowers



Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers.



Aerial view of Soldier Field, Miegs Field, Burnham Harbor, and the Field Museum campus.

‘Mapping’ our future at the district

by Mary Beth Qvyjt, GIS coordinator

Last month, the first in a series of GIS demonstrations took place at the district.

The objective of the GIS Lunch and Learn series is to begin paving the way or, to excuse the pun, “mapping our future” using GIS products that will be available for Chicago District employees.

The premiere Lunch and Learn session demonstrated how any District employee (with little or no prior experience in using GIS mapping products), may be able to view our newest GIS product “DigiAir,” which is now located and available for use on the Q: drive.

“DigiAir” consists of a seamless color aerial photograph and a user-friendly windows-style browser, which offers basic icon-driven tools to locate, measure, and identify areas on the image. The Lunch and Learn demonstration showed how to load DigiAir on your individual PC, create an aerial photo map with text, and how to utilize the measuring and drawing tools. The view can then be saved and exported for reports or PowerPoint presentations.

In addition to the demonstration, Heather Henneman of the Hydraulic Engineering Section introduced and is chairperson of the Geospatial Data and Systems Technical Committee and its members. I’m a member, along with John Ennis, Planning

Branch; Mary Martin, ADP Support Team; Bob Behrns, Civil Design Section; Mitch Isoe, Regulatory Branch; Mary Carson, Planning and Control Branch; Kara Hellige, West Section; Michael Murphy, East Section, and Steve Treharne, Technical Support Section.

The GD&S Technical Committee was developed early last fall to initiate the update of a GIS Implementation Plan for the Chicago District. The update of the GIS Implementation Plan is part of the Chicago Districts’ Operations Plan under “Capable Workforce 1.2.” Developing a strategic plan for implementing GIS products into our Intranet, Internet and CADD/MicroStation systems

‘It’s only the beginning—but the district has come a long way.’

applications were also briefly discussed.

GIS and CADD are two different types of mapping software. CADD is more for drawings and civil design and GIS is more for geographic applications with maps. We have been undergoing enormous efforts to be able to import CADD drawings to GIS and GIS to CADD. We are slowly but surely integrating both software. It’s only the beginning—but the district has come a long way.

The next GIS Lunch and Learn demonstration will take place sometime early this spring. The session will include: 1) A review of the DigiAir product and demonstrate how other GIS mapping products can be imported onto the DigiAir image, and 2) How to load

a basic GIS software package to be able to save individual maps created for a project.

For those of you who expressed an interest in coming to the demonstration, but were unable to attend, instructions to load DigiAir products are located at:

*O:\GEOSPATIAL\data\Digital Aerials
Seamless\Readme.txt*

A copy of the DigiAir Manual will also be scanned and put in that directory by the next Lunch and Learn session.

A very special “thank you” for the tremendous response that I received from all of you this past month. Fifty-two individuals responded to my email, with interest in attending the Lunch and Learn session. Your enthusiasm will help accomplish our goals this year in developing a successful strategy (GIS Implementation Plan) for the Chicago District’s FY 2001 Operations Plan.

Detroit LDP session ‘PREP’'s group

by Monica Krepfl, 2000-2001 LDP participant

“The ability to express an idea is well nigh as important as the idea itself.” -Bernard Baruch

The third session of the 2000-2001 Leadership Development Program, initiated by the Detroit District and being held jointly this year with the Chicago District, focused on presentation skills. This particular session, in Detroit, Mich., was facilitated by Grant Cross Communications Group, Inc. of Oak Brook, Ill.

We may not realize it, but we all use presentation skills many times a day—when someone stops by our office, stops us in the hallway, asks our opinion, on the phone, and during conversations at work, home, professionally and socially.

The session covered much useful information, including ways to reduce nervousness, use of attention-grabbing openings and memorable closings, and the importance of preparing and practicing your presentation.

But perhaps one of the most useful ideas discussed was the “PREP” formula, said to have originated at Harvard University many years ago. It is an easy to remember way to quickly gather your thoughts and present your ideas clearly and concisely:

Point—First state your point, premise or position.

Reason—Give the reason for your point.

Example—Cite a specific example so that the audience can gain understanding of what you are presenting. Use your own life experiences and stories or someone else’s, and include humor if appropriate.

Point—Restate or summarize your point.

During the course of the session, LDP participants had a chance to practice their presentation skills and receive constructive feedback from the facilitators and other participants. The LDP has been a great learning experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in developing their leadership skills. The opportunity to participate in the program with employees from both districts has been worthwhile and enjoyable.

The fourth and last LDP session will be held in Chicago from June 12-15.



At the third LDP session in Detroit, Mich., are the 25 LDP participants—12 from Chicago District and 13 from Detroit District.

Otis Elementary essay winners chosen

Recently, the Public Affairs Office sponsored an essay contest at Otis Elementary School, our partner school. The essay question was: "If you were president of the United States, what would you do?"

After reviewing 15 essays, the following winners were chosen:

- Octavio Patino, 1st place
- Jose Uribe, 2nd place
- Serena Gonzalez, 3rd place

First place winner will receive a \$25 U.S. savings bond. The others will receive certificates.

If I were president

by Octavio Patino

If I were elected president of the United States I will try to do things for children to get an education that are better for the world. I will give money to the public schools of the world for books and other things. I will try to make the world cleaner and less contaminated. I would try to do my best so there are no more wars. The atomic bombs would never be used again.

I would also have shelters for poor people. They would have help to get a job. I would try so that every person could get a meal. I would also clean the water. Some people drink water and it is contaminated. Poor people would have a place to live.

I would make sure that bad people are in jail so that they couldn't hurt people and create crimes. Jails would be more secure so that people in jail can't get out.

I would make sure that hospitals have good doctors. People have good health for their body. I would also make sure that people don't consume drugs, especially kids. People shouldn't drive when they are consuming liquor.

I would make sure neighborhoods are safe. Every neighborhood would have a neighborhood watch. All the neighborhoods will be nicer and cleaner.

In winter I would try to get all the snow out of the streets. People should have heat in their houses. I would lower the bill for heat. The house should be in a good condition to live in.

These are some of the things I would try to do if I were elected president of the United States of America.

If I were president

by Jose Uribe

First of all, I want to start off by wishing everyone a good day. If I am elected president of the United States I will do my best to see to it that everyone's expectations are met. What I first want to talk about is a subject very important to me and all you good people here, and that is...Education!

To start off, I will do my very best to ensure that all the books found in schools have up-to-date information. Another thing I'd do is try to open up more scholarship opportunities to hard-working people who are willing to give a college education their best shot but are finding it hard to come up with the money. I also feel we should come up with more after-school activities such as dance classes, band and other activities based on the suggestions of students. I feel these activities will be useful because when children are occupied and taking part in activities they enjoy, they are a lot less likely to start trouble. Extra activities also make it possible for children to learn about more than just the regular school subjects.

Another topic I would like to address would be the voting process. I bring this up because of all the trouble there was in Florida, with the chads as well as the butterfly ballots from Palm Beach County. I think what we should do is come up with a simpler process. For instance, we can use a machine where you highlight the name for whomever you wish to vote. The machine would then punch a hole next to the candidate's name. I find this to be necessary because it would simplify the voting process. During this election many people claimed to have had trouble properly punching a hole through their punch cards.

Another very important issue I would like to discuss is our medical plan. If elected president, I will ensure that seniors get a 25 percent discount on the cost of all prescription drugs. I will also ensure that they get free medical exams. I will also have hospitals pay 15 percent of the cost of any senior's major medical operations. I propose this because I don't think it is right to have the elderly, retired folk, paying full price for costly drugs, medical exams, and operations.

And lastly, I wish to talk about gun control. As you all know, the second amendment gives is the right to bear arms. But I feel we should have tougher requirements to obtain a gun. I feel this would greatly decrease the risk of arms getting into the hands of minors.

SEE ESSAYS, PAGE 9

District awards dispersal barrier construction contract

The Chicago District awarded a \$1,292,597 contract to Smith-Root, Inc. of Vancouver, Wash., to build an aquatic nuisance species dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

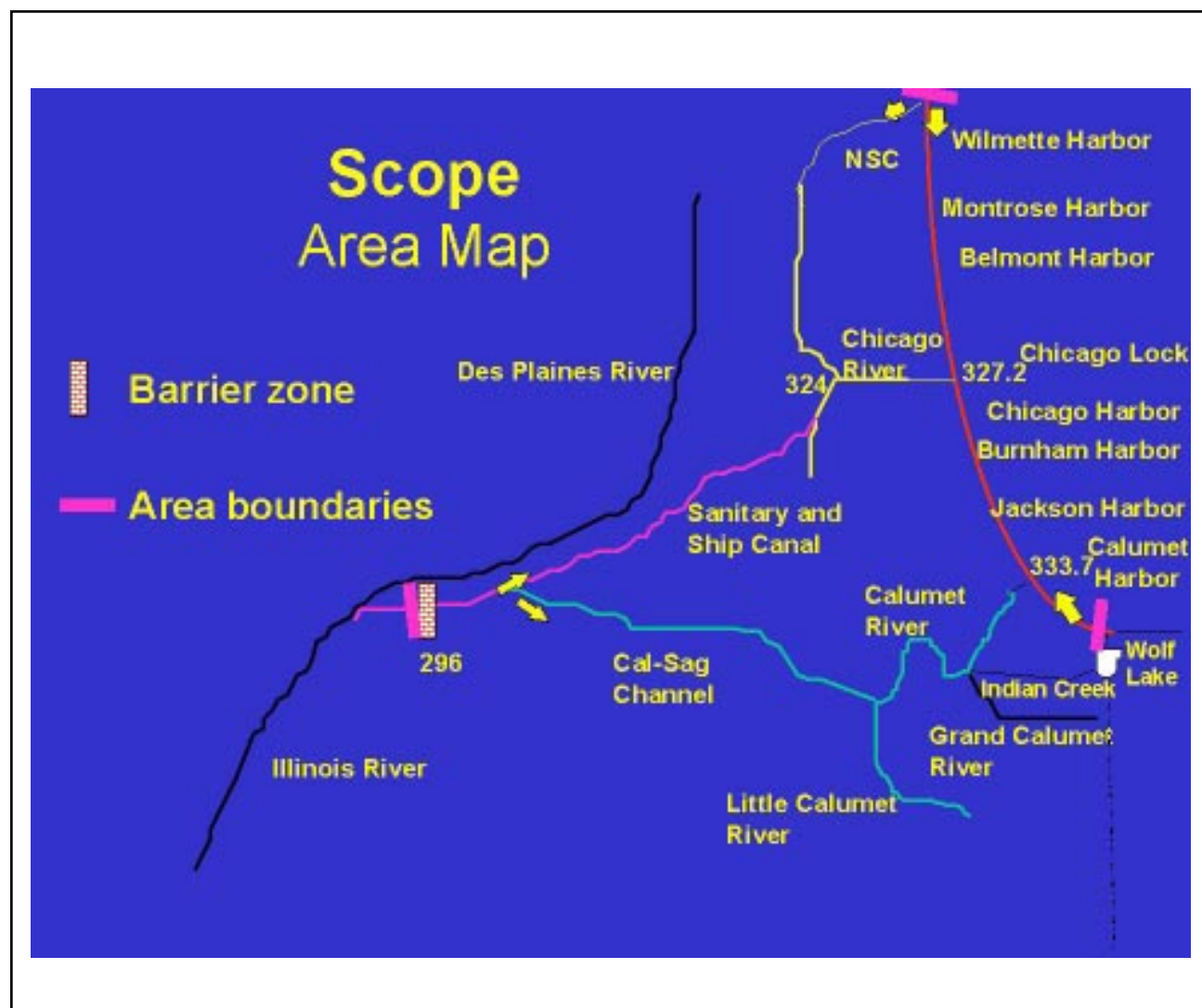
The full-water column electrical barrier will deter non-indigenous species from spreading further throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. The barrier will be located at river mile 296.25 on the Sanitary and Ship Canal, roughly between Romeoville and Lemont, Ill.

The purpose of the project is to determine the effectiveness of an electrical barrier in preventing or reducing the migration of non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

"The construction of a dispersal barrier demonstration project is an essential step in conducting the research needed to identify ways of protecting the Mississippi River and Great Lakes ecosystems and economies," said Beldon McPherson, project manager.

Nuisance species disrupt the balance of inland ecosystems by competing with native species for food, living space and spawning areas. Several aquatic nuisance species, such as the round goby and zebra mussel, have already made their way in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems. Many of the species were introduced into the Great Lakes via the ballast water from ocean-going ships.

Barrier construction will begin in March, with completion expected in August 2001.



Scene About Town

Vining heads to Headquarters, Washington, D.C.



District Engineer Col. Mark Roncoli presents a picture of the Chicago skyline to Rob Vining, who was recently promoted from director of Civil Works and Management at LRD to chief of Headquarter's Civil Works Programs Management Division.

D'Aniello guest speaker for National Engineer Week



Feb. 20, John D'Aniello, a registered professional engineer and member of the Senior Executive Service, was guest speaker for the district's National Engineer Week celebration. He retired as the deputy director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in January, 2001. He held this post for over four years. Following his graduation from Northwestern University in 1969, D'Aniello began his career with the Corps as structural engineer with the Chicago District.

REal News

by Bill White, chief, Real Estate Division

Understanding the respective roles of diverse technical and administrative personnel is a key factor in improving the effectiveness of any organization. Your real estate team has decided to take advantage of *The Breeze* as an opportunity to communicate its roles within the Chicago District through a series of articles. Today we will provide an overview of our organization and recent personnel developments. Future articles will cover specific topics, including navigation servitudes, highest and best use, applicability of law and condemnation. In our next article, we will explain the various functions performed by our realty specialists, appraiser, and attorney/advisor. If you have a topic which you consider to be of interest, please contact anyone in the Real Estate Division.

First, we are pleased to announce the arrival of two new members of our organization: Mark Selquist and Chrystal Spokane. Both are realty specialists who have performed acquisition work for other Districts. Mark has worked for the New Orleans District and Chrystal for the Pittsburgh District.

Second, we congratulate Emmett Clancy and Wanda Jackson for accepting promotions at other federal agencies. Emmett will be in the Pentagon

disposing of properties for the Air Force as a part of the Base Closure program. Wanda will be leaving for administrative specialist duties with the Veteran's Administration.

In the Chicago District, Real Estate performs two basic tasks: the drafting of cost sharing and other agreements with outside entities and the planning and acquisition of real estate. The real estate mission is derived from a clause in the Fifth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution: "No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." As you may recall, the historical backdrop for this Constitutional requirement stemmed from Revolutionary War days when British soldiers were forcibly quartered in private residences.

Subsequent laws and regulations have been promulgated to clarify the meaning of this clause, specifically "just compensation" and "due process". These laws and regulations apply to all federal acquisitions and are a contractual obligation of any nonfederal sponsor as provided in the Project Cooperation Agreement. When acquisition is performed by nonfederal sponsors, it is the responsibility of the Real Estate Division to assure that all federal requirements are understood and met.

Essays

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Well, now that all of you know my opinions on these issues I hope I can count on your votes in this election. Thank you and have a nice day.

If I were president

by Serena Gonzalez

If I was elected president, I would be the first woman president and get a lot of men to look at what women could do. It would be a great feeling for me and many women. I would have the power to make changes and make decisions for many people.

As first woman president, I would have a woman as my vice president. We could manage the United States together as a team. We would hear about what other people want, have many people voice their opinions, and be able to leave everyone behind.

There are many issues women face in the world. Mostly equal. I feel that if a woman feels she can handle a man's job then she should have that job. Many men believe women can't handle hard labor. They should just give us a chance and we could prove them wrong.

Well, I'm sure I would be very busy but I believe I would do a very good job. Last but not least, I would make school more difficult for high school students. If everyone finished high school we would have a bunch of somebodies instead of a bunch of nobodies.



The Regional Business Center Corner Volume 2

Did You Know.....

- **Jonathon Brown** of the **Buffalo District** is working on the Soo Lock/Poe Study for Detroit District.
- **William Graham** of **Huntington District** leads a MSC-wide team to develop the new Balance Scorecard Metrics in support of the Business Process Committee of the Regional Management Board.
- **Albert Reyes** of the **Louisville District** provided contract management support to Buffalo District on FUSRAP projects.
- **Ken Halstead** of the **Huntington District** is conducting an Independent Technical Review (ITR) for H & H components of Periodic Inspection Report for Wolf Creek Dam for Nashville District.
- **Jim Karsten** of **Buffalo District** and **Brian Greene** of **Pittsburgh District** are working together with the entire FUSRAP team on the Parks Township site.

• **Gary House** of **Nashville District** is leading a team from Nashville and Huntington Districts in support of Nicaragua.

This approach is catching on across all Corps offices. We have opportunities to assist or be assisted by other districts outside our division boundaries.

• **Anjana Chudgar** of **Louisville District** is on a nationwide team working on evaluation of the San Francisco Bay Bridge for Sacramento District.

• **Mark Robertson** of **Louisville District** is performing a pump construction/inspection job for the New England District. In addition, Mark has been working with Norfolk District on a pump station in the Virginia Beach area.

Opportunities Abound!

The Regional Business Center (RBC) is not a new structure for the division, it is simply a way of working together and accomplishing more. It offers each of you a chance to work with new people and be involved in interesting and challenging work.

For example, **Pittsburgh District** recently shared a new approach to tracking their projects, monitoring progress and measuring performance.

How Do You Get Involved?

One good way is to ask. Who do you ask? Try your supervisor or one of the members of the Regional Management Board. You don't know who the RMB members are, go to the Division Office home page on the web (www.lrd.usace.army.mil).*

If you wish to contribute an idea or other information that highlights the RBC in action, please contact Garry Gerlach, 513-684-3756, CELRD, Business Management Office.

**(Editors note: Chicago District RMB members are John Sirles, deputy, Project Management, and Bruce Howard, chief, Resource Management.)*

New environmental newsletter

The first edition of *The Corps Environment* is now available for Corps employees and other interested in the Corps' environmental work.

The 16-page quarterly publication, a product of the Directorate of Military Program's Environmental Division, focuses on the environmental work performed by the Corps as a whole. It is a combination of two former Corps publications, *The Restoration Reporter* and the *Ordnance & Explosives Environment*.

The first issue, which came out in mid-January, is available in print, through e-mail to Corps employees, and on the worldwide web at http://hq.environmental.usace.army.mil/newsinfo/The_Corps_Environment.pdf. It also is available on the Defense Environmental Network and Information eXchange, DENIX.

The next issue is slated for April. To contribute an article, contact Kimberly Gillespie, editor of *The Corps Environment*, at Kimberly.C.Gillespie@HND01.usace.army.mil.

(Source: Engineer Update, February 2001)

Corps Registry of Skills

If you ever need to find a Corps employee with a specific skill, the Corps Registry of Skills is exactly what you're looking for.

The ROS, located at <https://ros.usace.army.mil:8096/>, is—

- Open to all Corps employees.
- Not open to the general public.
- Designed to collect and store information on the knowledge and skills of the entire Corps team.
- Not intended as a resume repository for future Corps jobs.
- Not to be used as a basis for performance ratings, promotions, or any other personnel action.

To register, simply go to the website (your CEFMS password is needed to enter) and type in some basic information about yourself (name, title, Corps office location, etc.). Supervisory review and approval is not required to register in the ROS. After your basic information is entered, you will be able to add more information (personal, education, training, skills, etc.) and search the ROS by entering a key word or phrase.

Message from editor

The Public Affairs mission is to keep the public and the Army informed. One way we do this is through *The Chicago Breeze*. The most effective communicator of the Army Corps story is you—that is, everyone here at the Chicago District.

One way you can help tell the Corps story is by submitting articles and/or story ideas to the *Breeze*. Many of you take field pictures—you can submit those, too. *The Breeze* is always in need of news—**your** news.

Many times, I've heard comments like "But I don't know how to write" or "What I'm working on isn't that important." What you do is important. The public wants to hear about what the Corps is doing—no matter how big or small. What you do does matter.

As far as writing goes, I have a tip for you. Beginning journalists are told that the lead (the opening of the story) must grab the readers' attention and ignite interest. Remember that the important facts should go first—the who, what, when, where and why. Then in the rest of the story you'll simply provide details.

Breeze deadline is the 15th of every month. So give me a call at ext. 1302 and I'll help you tell your story.

Vanessa Villarreal

—March— Women's History Month

'Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision'

The district will celebrate Women's History Month with guest speaker Joanne Milo, Project Management Branch:

WHEN: Thursday, March 15
WHERE: Main conference room
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

Flashback

Do you remember when...



Illinois River, Spring Valley Highway Bridge, mile 218.4, July 17, 1929.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
111 NORTH CANAL, SUITE 600
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

OFFICIAL BUSINESS